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CHINA AIMS AT SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN RAW COTTON

Discussion at the recent East China Conference of Textile Industries revealed that national cotton production plans for 1950 call for planting 50 million mou of cotton with a projected yield of 13 million piculs. This is 6 million piculs less than for the peak production year, 1937.

A big question in the conference was raw cotton supply for private spinning mills.

At the time of the liberation, Shanghai private mills had an inventory of 28 million pounds of raw cotton on hand. On 20 May 1950 there remained only 5,800,000 pounds of this inventory.

During the last 6 months of 1948, private companies in Shanghai bought privately 123,771,500 pounds of raw cotton, of which 50.1 percent was native and 49.9 of foreign origin. During 1949, they bought 141,470,885 pounds, of which approximately 70 percent was native and 30 percent of foreign origin. During the first 4 months of 1950, they bought 29,913,023 pounds, of which 85.8 percent was native and 14.2 percent of foreign origin.

It is thus evident that the trend is toward elimination of dependence upon foreign sources for cotton with consequent release from foreign controls. The hope is that within a comparatively few years the nation will be entirely self-sufficient in its cotton supply.

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